

Appln No. 09/609,149
Amdt. Dated March 8, 2004
Reply to Office action of January 27, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27-40, 42, 44 and 47; and objected to claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 41, 43, 45 and 46. By this amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 29, 32-33, and 46 have been amended; claims 21-22, and 44-45 have been cancelled; and claims 49-52 have been added. Therefore claims 1-20, 23-43, and 46-52 are pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

The Examiner stated that although the applicant included within the preamble of claim 1 the language "including printed coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of at least one reference point of the form," that feature would not be considered patentable unless it is incorporated into the body of the claim. Therefore by the present amendments the applicant has incorporated that limitation into the body of independent claims 1 and 29 and has incorporated related limitations into the body of independent claims 4, 5, 32, and 33.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 41, 43 and 45-46 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and in a manner complying with double patenting statutes. Therefore the applicant as amended independent method claims 1, 4, and 5 to include the limitation of claim 22 concerning printing the coded data at the same time as the form is printed. Similarly, independent system claims 29, 32, and 33 have been amended to include the limitation of claim 45 concerning printing the coded data at the same time as the form is printed.

Further, new claims 49 and 50 have been added that rewrite all of the limitations of claims 22 and 45, respectively, in independent form.

Further, new claims 51 and 52 have been added that rewrite all of the limitations of claims 18 and 41, respectively, in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-17, 20-21, 24-25, 27-40, 42, 44, and 47-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beatson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,824) in view of Jacobson (U.S. Patent No. 6,488,205). The applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are now moot in view of the present amendments of the independent claims incorporating subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

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Conclusion

All of the independent claims have been amended to incorporate the limitations concerning printing coded data at the same time as a form is printed, which limitations had previously been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Further, at the request of the Examiner, the limitation concerning coded data indicative of an identity of a form and of at least one reference point of a form was moved from the preamble into the body of claims 1 and 29 and similar amendments were made to all the other independent claims. Finally, new claims were added rewriting dependent claims indicated by the Examiner to be allowable in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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